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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/628,388	07/29/2003	Kouichi Tanimoto	500.42984X00	3951

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EXAMINER

PEARSON, DAVID J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2137

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	03/27/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/628,388	TANIMOTO ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	David J. Pearson	2137	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 July 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 29 July 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>07292003; 11142003; 11102005</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

1. Claims 1-14 have been examined.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 4 and 5 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 4, line 6 contains the word "enties." Examiner believes this to be a typographical error and the claim is intended to say "entries" and will treat the claim as such for the remainder of the Office Action.

Claim 5, line 6 contains the word "agency'." Examiner believes this to be a typographical error and the claim is intended to say "agency's" and will treat the claim as such for the remainder of the Office Action.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Miyazaki et al (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0023221).

For claim 1, Miyazaki et al. teach a method of publishing signature log entries having information about signatures generated by user's side apparatus, comprising the steps of:

On a publication agency's side apparatus,

Receiving and publishing the user's signature log entries generated by the user's side apparatus as a user's signature log entry publication step (note paragraph [0061]);

Notifying the users of having published the user's signature log entries as a user's signature log entry publication notifying step (note paragraph [0061]);

Generating a publication agency's signature log entry by using the received user's signature log entries, and updating a signature log having the publication agency's signature log entry produced and registered in past times as a signature log updating step (note paragraph [0060]);

Publishing the generated publication agency's signature log entry as a publication agency's signature log entry publication step (note paragraph [0060]); and

Notifying the users of having published the publication agency's signature log entry as a publication agency's signature log entry publication notifying step (note paragraph [0060]).

For claim 2, Miyazaki et al. teach claim 1, wherein said signature log updating step includes the steps of:

Generating the publication agency's signature log entry on the basis of the received user's signature log entries and a plurality of other signature log entries, and

recording it in a signature log file as a signature log entry generating step (note paragraph [0060]); and

Recording information of the users and information of the received user's signature log entries in a user information file as a user information file-updating step (note paragraph [0045]).

For claim 3, Miyazaki et al. teach claim 1, wherein the user's signature log entry publishing step has a step of acquiring a time-stamp to assure the publication date and time of the user's signature log entry as a time-stamp acquiring step (note paragraph [0061]).

For claim 4, Miyazaki et al. teach claim 2, wherein the signature log entry generating step uses, in the user's signature log entries, signature algorithm identification information, signature numbers peculiar to the signature log entries, hash values for the previous signature log entries to validate a chain, and signature numbers and hash values for the received user's signature log entries to generate the publication agency's signature log entry, and adds the generated publication agency's signature log entry to the signature log (note paragraph [0053]).

For claim 5, Miyazaki et al. teach claim 2, wherein the user information file updating step generates data of a signature number attached to the publication agency's signature log entry, a reception code indicating that the corresponding

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publication agency's signature log entry is generated according to the reception of the user's signature log entries, partner information indicative of senders who transmitted the user's signature log entries, signature numbers attached to the received user's signature log entries, and the received user's signature log entries, and adds it to the user information file (note paragraph [0066]).

For claim 6, Miyazaki et al. teach claim 1, wherein the user's signature log entry publication notifying step on the publication agency's side apparatus includes the steps of

Generating a publication notice to notify the user's on the user's side apparatus of having published as a publication notice generating step (note paragraph [0061]),

Generating a signature from the generated publication notice and the previous signature log entries of the signature log, and adding it to the publication notice as a signature generating step (note paragraph [0060]),

Recording the generated signature information on the signature log as a signature log updating step (note paragraph [0060]),

Recording information of the users in the user information file as a user information file updating step (note paragraph [0045]), and

Transmitting the generated publication notice to the users as a transmitting step (note paragraph [0061]).

For claim 7, Miyazaki et al. teach claim 6, wherein the publication notice generating step generates the publication notice on the basis of

The message for notifying the users of having published (note paragraph [0061]),

The published signature log entries (note paragraph [0060]), and

The time-stamp indicative of the publication date and time (note paragraph [0061]).

For claim 8, Miyazaki et al. teach claim 6, wherein the signature log updating step generates the signature log entries including

Signature algorithm identification information (note paragraph [0053]),

Signature numbers attached to the inherent signature log entries (note paragraph [0053]),

Hash values for the previous signature log entries to use in validating the chain (note paragraph [0053]),

Hash values for the signature-generated messages (note paragraph [0053]), and

The generated signatures, and adds them to the signature log (note paragraph [0053]).

For claim 9, Miyazaki et al. teach claim 6, wherein the user information file updating step adds, to the user information file, information of

The signature numbers associated with the signature log entries (note paragraph [0053]),

A code indicating that the corresponding publication agency's signature log entry was produced when the signature was generated (note paragraph [0054]), and

Partner information indicative of the users to whom the publication notice is sent (note paragraph [0045]).

For claim 10, Miyazaki et al. teach claim 6, wherein the publication agency's signature log entry publishing step publishes part of the signature log updated on the basis of the publication notice generating step (note paragraph [0061]).

For claim 11, Miyazaki et al. teach claim 2, wherein the publication agency's signature log entry publication notifying step includes the steps of

Searching for the users to be notified from the user information file as an opponent sender searching step (note paragraph [0059]),

Searching for the log to be sent from the user information file as a transmission log range acquiring step (note paragraph [0070]),

Notifying of having published the publication agency's signature log entry as a publication notice generating step (note paragraph [0061]),

Generating a signature from the generated publication notice and the signature log entries of the previous signatures as a signature generating step (note paragraph [0060]),

Recording the user information to be notified in the user information file as a user information file updating step (note paragraph [0045]), and

Transmitting the generated publication notice to the users as a transmission step (note paragraph [0061]).

For claim 12, Miyazaki et al. teach claim 11, wherein the publication notice generating step generates the publication notice on the basis of

The message for notifying the user of having published the publication agency's signature log entry (note paragraph [0061]),

The published signature log entry (note paragraph [0060]), and

The signature log of a range to be transmitted (note paragraph [0070]).

For claim 13, Miyazaki et al. teach claim 11, wherein the user information file updating step adds, to the user information file, the information of

The signature number attached to the publication agency's signature log entry (note paragraph [0053]),

The code indicating that the corresponding publication agency's signature log entry was produced when the publication agency's log entry publication has been notified (note paragraph [0054]),

The partner information indicative of the users to whom the publication notice is to be sent (note paragraph [0059]), and

The information about a range of log to be transmitted (note paragraph [0070]).

For claim 14, Miyazaki et al. teach claim 1, wherein the user's side apparatus has the user information file that has recorded therein the information about the transmitted-side or receiving-side opponent in association with the user's signature log entries or publication agency's signature log entry transmitted or received by the user's side apparatus (note paragraph [0059]).

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David J. Pearson whose telephone number is (571) 272-0711. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 8:00am - 4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Emmanuel Moise can be reached on (571) 272-3865. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



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